

14. (Amended) A method of preparing a hybrid cell, comprising:

(a) bringing at least two different cells into contact under conditions that promote cell fusion, wherein one of said cells is selected from the group consisting of a macrophage, a dendritic cell and an antigen presenting cell that lacks an accessory factor required to generate a positive immune response, and then

(b) purifying the resultant hybrid by cell sorting, wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 14, further comprising labeling each of said different cells with a different fluorescent dye prior to bringing said cells into contact under conditions that promote cell fusion, wherein said purifying is accomplished using fluorescence activated cell sorting.

18. (Amended) A method of preparing a hybrid cell, comprising:

(a) bringing two different cells into contact conditions that promote cell fusion, wherein one of said cells is selected from the group consisting of a macrophage, a dendritic cell and an antigen presenting cell that lacks an accessory factor required to generate a positive immune response, and

(b) purifying the resultant hybrid cell by cell sorting in less than 48 hours after exposure to conditions that promote fusion, wherein said cell sorting does not involve antibiotic or metabolic selection.

19. (Amended) A method of preparing a hybrid cell, comprising:

(a) contacting a first cell with a first dye,

(b) contacting a second cell with a second dye,

(c) contacting said first and second cells with one another under conditions that promote cell fusion, wherein said first cell or said second cell is selected from the group consisting of a macrophage, a dendritic cell and an antigen presenting cell that lacks an accessory factor required to generate a positive immune response, and